

[A VEHICLE BED ASSEMBLY AND A METHOD FOR MAKING A VEHICLE BED ASSEMBLY]

Abstract of Disclosure

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A vehicle bed assembly 10 having a floor pan 18, a front wall 20, and substantially identical side walls 14, 16. The front wall 20 and the side walls 14, 16 are coupled to the floor pan 18. The vehicle bed assembly 10 further includes a rear wall 22 which is deployed upon a tailgate 21 which is selectively coupled to the floor pan 18, and a pair of substantially identical top rail members 100 which overlay and receive a unique one of the side walls 14, 16 and a bracket 210 which overlays and receives the front wall 20 and which is coupled to the top rail member 100 by a pair of end cap members 122. Particularly, the end cap members 122 and the top rail members 100 cooperatively provide a direct load path from any location on each of the side walls 14, 16 to the bracket 210 which may be coupled to a portion of the vehicle 12, thereby reducing the likelihood of damage to the side walls 14, 16 and the front wall 20. The assembly 10 may further include reception members 38, 40, 42, 44 which allow a raised platform to be constructed or placed within the vehicle bed assembly 10, and stake pockets 26, 28, 30 and 32.

Figures